

REMARKS

Claims 16-27, and 34 [and 35] stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hung (6339925) in view of Pfefferle (6048194). Claims 28-33 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hung (6339925) in view of Pfefferle (6048194) in view of McCarty (6015285).

Response to 35 USC 103 Rejections

Applicant has amended claim 16 as supported at least by paragraphs 37-39 of the originally filed substitute specification, and figures 2-3. Applicant now claims “*directing the pre-reacted fuel* into a main burner flow channel at an angle of 15° to 75° relative to the direction of combustion air flow, wherein the *angle* is effective to *impart* a swirl to the pre-reacted fuel in the flow channel.” In contrast, Hung/Pfefferle teaches using a swirler to impart a swirl. Applicant also claims “continuing to burn the pre-reacted fuel in a secondary reaction located in the primary burner located *downstream* of the pre-reaction.” There appears to be no primary burner downstream of the pre-reaction (at 25) in Hung/Pfefferle. Applicant respectfully requests the 35 USC 103 rejection of claim 16, and dependent claims 17-23, be withdrawn.

Applicant has amended claim 24 as supported at least by paragraphs 37-39 of the originally filed substitute specification, and figures 2-3. In amended claim 24 Applicant claims:

a catalytic burner located within a combustion air flow channel, having a catalytically effective element arranged to direct *pre-reacted fuel* into the primary flow channel via a catalytic burner fuel outlet at an angle between 15° to 75° relative to a direction of flow of combustion air in the primary flow channel *to create a vortex* in the primary flow channel, wherein the catalytic burner fuel outlet is positioned *upstream of the primary flow channel outlet* with respect to the direction of flow of the fuel within the primary flow channel and the fuel is catalytically reacted via exposure to the catalytically effective element.”

The arguments used to distinguish claim 16 from the presented art also distinguish claim 24 from the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests the 35 USC 103 rejection of claim 24, and dependent claims 25-27, be withdrawn.

Applicant has amended claim 34 as supported at least by paragraphs 37-39 of the originally filed substitute specification, and figures 2-3. In amended claim 34 Applicant claims

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“a primary burner having a *first annular flow channel* comprising a first annular outlet and a *second annular flow channel concentric with and surrounded by the first annular flow channel* and comprising a second annular outlet.” Hung/Pfefferly does not teach or suggest this limitation. Applicant further claims features of each flow channel, and a primary burner. The arguments presented to distinguish claims 16 and 24 from the presented art on those bases also distinguish claim 34 from the presented art. Applicant respectfully requests the 35 USC 103 rejection of claim 34, and dependent claim 35, be withdrawn.

Claims 28-33 depend from claim 24. Claim 24 survives application of Hung/Pfefferle. McCarty does not teach or suggest that which is not taught or suggested by Hung/Pfefferle. Consequently, claim 24 survives application of Hung/Pfefferle/McCarty, so claims 28-33 must also survive application of Hung/Pfefferle/McCarty. Applicant respectfully requests the 35 USC 103 rejection of claims 28-33 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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